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## Honga : the leader, v. 03, no. 12

American Indian Center of Omaha, Inc.

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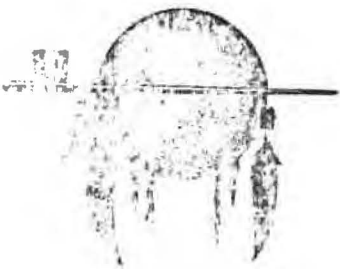
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# HONGA

"THE LEADER"

VOL. III - NO. 12

AMERICAN INDIAN CENTER OF OMAHA, INC.

DECEMBER 1980

## A MESSAGE FROM THE ASSISTANT DIRECTOR

Dear Indian community and supporters:

The month of December brings the Christmas season and ends the old year. We can look back over the past year and remember our happy times and any sadness that may have touched our lives.

We at the American Indian Center by and large have had a very successful year in terms of meeting the needs of our Indian community. We provided direct services to 2,436 clients as of September 30, 1980. Our alcoholism program is moving along extremely high caliber with the very capable Mr. Nate Parker as its director. The alcoholism staff are to be commended. It's really nice to see our Indian people going through the treatment program and staying sober.

Our community food and nutrition program budget was cut in half but enough funds were received to continue our direct services to clients.

Starting January 1981, we will have a new training program to offer under CETA. This is truly a good program for those wanting to learn a trade to earn a meaningful livelihood.

We have learned that Douglas County Welfare will handle the Home Energy Assistance Program (HEAP) for this year. This program will pay your fuel bills, if you should qualify, and from all indications should begin December 15. We will sit down with the Douglas County Welfare staff to work out an amiable plan whereby our clients may benefit from this needed service.

This month we will be busy at writing a new proposal under authority of the Indian Child Welfare Act for a program structure geared to aid our children in home placement, etc. We hope to receive funds from United Way this year for a youth program. We are concerned over the fact that we have been really unable to provide more meaningful activities for our young people.

Out of 200 applicants, we were able to help 50 with food baskets for Thanksgiving. We hope to be able to help more for Christmas.

Since this is our last HONGA (The Leader) for 1980, we want to thank all of you for supporting and participating in our varied activities. We would like to single out our active board of directors who have volunteered their valuable time to make the services available.

We all appreciate the many hours they have given to make our Center a place to go when help is sought.

(Cont'd next column)

We wish all the Indian community a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

Sincerely,

Wayne Tyndall, Assistant Director  
American Indian Center of Omaha, Inc.

## WORDS FROM OUR ALCOHOLISM PROGRAM DIRECTOR

The American Indian Center of Omaha Alcoholism Program has much to be proud of and to report on as activities for clients continue to improve while the need for expanded services may soon be necessary. Since the month of September (1980), the treatment center and halfway house operations have serviced a steady 20 to 30 clients per week in both our In-patient and Out-patient services. Currently, we are licensed and certified to implement a fifteen (15) bed program. This quota has not been difficult to meet as in mid-November some requests had to be put on our waiting list for entry or referred to other outside agencies for immediate services. The Alcoholism Service was established under the leadership of the Indian Center board and staff and will soon be starting their third (3rd) year of contract funding. It is through their efforts and endurance that here in the city of Omaha the many visible Indian individuals and families who may be afflicted with alcoholism now have a program and/or service to assist them when "sobriety" is sought and fought for.

Presently, the alcoholism program is administered and supervised by seven (7) staff personnel, with twenty (20) hour a day coverage. However, all admission requests, counseling and treatment sessions are conducted from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., Monday thru Friday of each week. The following is a condensed view of what is now going on with the Indian alcoholism program:

### Treatment Sessions:

Monday	10:00-11:30	2:00-3:30	7:00-9:00
Tuesday	10:00-11:30	2:00-3:30	
Wednesday	10:00-11:30	2:00-3:30	
Thursday	10:00-11:30	2:00-3:30	
Friday	10:00-11:30	2:00-3:30	7:00-10:00
Saturday	Recreation: athletic activities		
Sunday	Church - bowling and/or movies		

The staff of the Indian Alcoholism Program have been involved in various forms of training sessions sponsored by both the State Division on Alcoholism and the National Institute on Alcoholism and Alcohol Abuse. These sessions have been conducted over the past six (6) months

(Cont'd page 4, col. 2)

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Legal Services.....Diane Webb  
Health & Nutrition.....Clyde Tyndall  
Joan Garey  
Employment Assistance.....Elmer Necklace

#### DEPARTMENTAL NEWS...

NEW TOLL-FREE FOOD HOT-LINE STARTED BY NUFF  
By Clyde Tyndall

Nebraskans United For Food (NUFF) now has available a toll-free hot-line on any information pertaining to food in the state of Nebraska. You can call this number at any time to find out where you can obtain Emergency Food Pantries or information on the School Breakfast Program, Senior Diner Sites, Food Stamp Program, WIC, or any other food program. Also, they can furnish information in solving your Food Stamp problems in case you were denied food stamps. You may also want to find out if you are qualified for food stamps. This number is 800-742-7743. Remember, it is toll-free.

#### UTILITY BILLS

Lately we have been getting a lot of calls from clients who have over-due utility bills from MUD or OPPD. In the majority of these cases, these bills are pretty high because the clients have ignored the bills for several months. When this happens it is almost impossible to help. We suggest that if you realize you can't pay a bill then call us and we can either get you a delay on your shut-off notice and try to help you raise money to pay two-thirds of the bill because this is what the utility companies allow. The worst thing you can do is let these bills pile up.

We have just talked with State Welfare Department in Lincoln and they have informed us that Douglas County Welfare will start taking applications to pay your fuel bills on December 15. More information on this when it becomes available.

#### YOU CAN SAVE MONEY BY USING FOOD COUPONS

By Joan Garey

Usually any store like Safeway or Hinky-Dinky will have coupons available in three different ways for your convenience. They often have store coupons right in the store itself for you to take and in a lot of cases the product you may want to purchase will have a coupon right on it, then you are all aware of the coupons in the newspapers. In Wednesday's newspapers, you can cut out the coupons because these are made available for the consumer for specific sales. One lady was able to save up to \$1,000.00 in a year's time just by using the coupons. I, myself, remember buying a product that cost \$1.15 for \$.35 by using one coupon. So they are there and if you want to save money, you can be a smart consumer and cut those coupons out and have money for other things.

#### CAROL MUETING FROM POOL & COUNTY SOCIAL SERVICES VISITS AICO

On Monday, November 17, Carol Mueeting met with Joan Garey, health representative, and discussed the Foster Care Program for Douglas County and the immediate Omaha area. She explained the program in detail and asked Ms. Garey if there were Indian families that would be able to care for an Indian child temporarily. Most Indian families are from the low-income level, however there may be a few fortunate Indian families in our area who would be able and interested to care for some of these children. If there are any interested parties who would like to take care of these children, please contact Ms. Joan Garey at the Indian Center (344-0111) or Carol Mueeting at 444-6265. Our children do need help in these kinds of situations, and it would be nice if our own Indian people could help them.

#### YOU HAVE MAIL AT THE INDIAN CENTER

Arthur Blackbird	(1)
Dean W. Birdhead	(8)
Mark A. Erickson	(1)
Jordan Fields	(1)
Virgil Grant	(1)
Daniel Hallowell	(11)
Elsie Harlan	(1)
Cecil Leading Horse	(1)
Edward G. Lavallie	(1)
Hobart Little Cloud	(1)
Elnathen H. McKean	(1)
Andy & Pat Thunder Cloud	(1)
Garfield Trudee	(1)
Sylvester Young	(4)

We would like to inform the Indian public that it would be unwise to use the Indian Center as your mailing address. It is very possible that your mail could contain important documents and if this were misplaced at the Indian Center or lost in the Post Office when being forwarded, it could cause undue hardship for you. We would like to avoid this if possible. This is mainly for your sake.



## ENERGY ASSISTANCE PROGRAM AT AICO

This year the State Department of Public Welfare (Douglas County) will administer the Low Income Energy Assistance Program. Mr. Don Schunk of Douglas County informed the Indian Center that they will start to accept applications on December 15 at the Douglas County Welfare Office located at 1215 South 42nd Street, Omaha. Douglas County will provide an interviewer at the Indian Center in the first week of January 1981.

Average payments will be about \$250.00 depending on income. This could run as high as \$750.00 if a family has income of \$2,000.00 or less. This also depends on type of fuel being used in the home.

Recipients of public assistance will receive fliers in the mail explaining the program in detail. If you are a seasonal worker, you will have to verify your income for the period that you worked.

The state defines a household as any individual or group of individuals who are living together as one economic unit for whom residential energy is customarily purchased in common, or who make undesignated payments for energy in the form of rent.

If you have any further questions on the Energy Assistance Program, please contact Mr. Clyde Tyndall at the Indian Center at 344-0111.

## WEDDING DANCE FOR CHASKA GOMEZ &amp; WEHNONA STABLER

A wedding dance is scheduled to be held on December 5 (Friday) honoring Chaska Gomez and Wehnona Stabler beginning at 4:30 p.m. at the Blackhawk Community Center in Winnebago, Neb. All drums are welcome. All gourd clubs are invited.

HMD	Dawson No Horse
HLD	Mary Ann Snowball
HS	Carroll Stabler
MC	Matt Cleveland

Mr. and Mrs. Elmer Blackbird are in charge.

\* \* \* \* \*

## GOURD DANCE CELEBRATION AT MACY DECEMBER 6

A gourd dance will commence at the cultural center in Macy, Neb., on December 6 (Saturday) at 4:00 p.m. All clubs are invited to attend. Mr. and Mrs. Joe Harlan are sponsors of this event. Paula Parker, youth worker for the RLDS Church, will be honored. Please bring your chairs and dishes.

*Merry Christmas  
from the American  
Indian Center*

## POW WOW IN OMAHA JANUARY 3 AND 4

The American Indians United of UNO and the Urban Indian Cultural Club of Omaha will co-sponsor a two-day pow wow at the National Guard Armory, 72nd and Mercy Rd, Omaha, Nebr., on January 3 and 4, 1981, from 2 p.m. to 11 p.m. each day. Bring your dishes and chairs. Hope to see all of you there.

--Gwin Nugent

## PLANNING ON MOVING?

Call Mr. Lawrence Lerma at 341-3048 for moving your furniture, trash, etc. You may call anytime on Wednesdays but after 6 p.m. on other weekdays. His address is 1545 South 26th Street, Omaha. His fees are reasonable.

## IN MEMORY OF WAYNE GOHAM

The death of Wayne Goham has brought sadness to us. Wayne was employed at the Lincoln Indian Center. He left many relatives and friends to mourn his passing. We extend our sincere sympathy to his children and parents Albert and Margaret Dick of Omaha.

## IN WYOMING: THEY'RE LEARNING THEIR OWN LANGUAGE

(By E.T. McClanahan (UPI) Cheyenne, Wyo.)

Pius Moss often encounters a sobering irony: Indian schoolchildren making fun of fellow students trying to speak their native language.

In one respect, a language is like an organism: its survival can become endangered. Anthropologists estimate that up to 300 North American Indian languages, grouped into 57 families, existed on the continent at one time. In 1962, linguist Wallace Chafe estimated there were 200 remaining, with the number still declining.

On the Wind River Reservation in the mountains and rolling hills of west-central Wyoming, Moss, a 66-year-old rancher who teaches Arapaho at the St. Stephen's Mission School near Riverton, is one of those trying to save his tribe's language from extinction.

Moss estimates that only 30 percent of the 3,400 Northern Arapaho on the reservation still speak their language fluently, and most of those are over 35. As a result, many Arapaho fear their language will die in another generation or two.

Already, Moss said, most of the children entering grade school think of their tribal tongue as a second language. Many fail to take it seriously.

"They make fun of one another when they're speaking it," said Moss. "I give them worksheets and I'll find them in the yard, you know, bits of them crumpled up here and there."

Since last year, Moss and other teachers on the reservation have been using a 16-character Arapaho alphabet developed by University of Massachusetts anthropology Prof. Zdenek Salzmann.

They hope use of the alphabet will accelerate the effort to restore the language and that someday, as in the case of the Navajo

(Cont'd page 4, Col. 1)

## THE ROAD



Students at St. Stephen's learn their native tongue.

tribe, the number of fluent speakers will begin to increase rather than decline.

"The alphabet is about as perfect as a person could want it," Moss said. "It's better than what we tried to come up with ourselves."

"The lady that helps me write it, she says words just the way they're supposed to be said, according to the various stops and accent marks. I'm surprised that she talks just like an Arapaho would, but she doesn't know what she's talking about."

The Arapaho alphabet, as developed by Salzmann, is made up of the letters B, C, E, H, I, K, N, O, S, T, U, W, X, Y, the number 3 and the comma. The comma is for glottal stops, which are sounds made as in the English "uh-ph." There is no letter "A."

The letter "X" is for the Klike sound of Arapaho, which is much rougher than the English "K" sound. The numeral 3, along with the letters S, X, and H, are for the fricatives -- sounds formed by forcing air through a narrow slit somewhere in the mouth, as in the "th" sound.

"The elders aren't really accepting it," Moss said of the Salzmann system. "The argument is that the language was never meant to be written and should be taught in the home. But the younger people, they don't know it. My argument is, 'How are we going to preserve it?'"

"After a few more years, say, 50 years, most of us that know it will be gone. So no one will know anything about it unless it's recorded."

William C'HAIR JR., 36, learned Arapaho from his grandparents and now teaches it at the Wyoming Indian High School near the reservation community of Ethete. He said a year of Arapaho is required, but that is not enough time.

"In order for someone to learn a foreign language, it takes 900 to 1,300 contact hours," C'Hair said. "They're only getting about 30 or 40 contact hours a semester."

Moss said Salzmann hopes to complete, in two years, the first Arapaho dictionary.

"I imagine other tribes have gone into that area, like the Walapai and the Navajo," Moss said. "They have something to go by. In fact my son took a course in Navajo (at Ft. Lewis College in Durango, Colo.)"

The whole effort is a sort of race against time. C'Hair said it was still too early to determine how effective the new alphabet is.

"This is the first year we've been using the present approach," he said. Only time will tell."

\* \* \* \* \*

(Cont'd from page 1, Col. 2)

and are designed to equip our total staff with the proper skills and techniques to better serve the needs of our clients and their families. This year of 1980 we are attempting to fight the massive problem of alcoholism and its abuse by not only the means and approach of Alcoholism Anonymous Principles but also by utilizing Indian concepts and theories applied in our cultural religion and social customs. In blending these resources, it is our hope that the year 1981 will see more of our Indian people come forward to fight this battle against drinking and alcoholism. Let's get the word out and around; there is help and assistance if you do not wait until it's too late. By phoning our office or the Indian Center to further inquire about our services and our schedules could be one of your most important decisions for yourself, a relative, a friend, a loved one. Why wait, when potential help and answers are so near and could only hinge on your prompt actions.

The Halfway House is located at 4601 No. 36th Street, Omaha, Nebraska. The Phone No. there is 402 451-3714.

We wish a happy, healthy holiday season to all of our Indian people.

With respect,

*Nate Parker*

Nate Parker, Alcoholism Program Director  
American Indian Center of Omaha Alcoholism Program



"Sorry, dad, I didn't know it was loaded!"

OMAHA

# DECEMBER

SIOUX

WA CA BI ZHIN GA EDA IKE

WHEN THE LITTLE BLACK BEARS ARE BORN.

HECEL IENA OYATE KIN NIPI KTE

THAT THESE PEOPLE MAY LIVE.

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
	1	2 Adult Basic Education classes 6:30 to 9:00 p.m.	3 Adult Basic Education classes 6:30 to 9:00 p.m.	4	5 AA Meeting Alcoholism Program - 7:00 p.m.	6
7	8	9 Adult Basic Education classes 6:30 to 9:00 p.m.	10 Adult Basic Education classes 6:30 to 9:00 p.m.	11	12 AA Meeting Alcoholism Program - 7:00 p.m.	13
14	15	16 Adult Basic Education classes 6:30 to 9:00 p.m.	17 Adult Basic Education classes 6:30 to 9:00 p.m.	18 Monthly board meeting (Board of directors) 7:00 p.m.	19 AA Meeting Alcoholism Program - 7:00 p.m.	20
21	22	23 Adult Basic Education classes 6:30 to 9:00 p.m.	24 Adult Basic Education classes 6:30 to 9:00 p.m.	25 HOLIDAY Christmas Day	26 AA Meeting Alcoholism Program 7:00 p.m.	27
28	29	30 Adult Basic Education classes 6:30 to 9:00 p.m.	31 Adult Basic Education classes 6:30 to 9:00 p.m.			